

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING 27.10.2015:

Vice President Richard West opened the meeting at 19.45 hours and welcomed the 14 members present. He invited **Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins** to give his display on **Russia**.



Marcus focussed on the Russian postal worker and his work. Russia is a huge area covering 17 million square kilometres, 9 time zones, 42,000 post offices handling 2.4 billion postal items per year.

The display included photographs, postcards, illustrations including extracts from the London Illustrated News, postal stationary, posters, newspaper wrappers, and a few stamps.

One area focussed on was the transport of mail by a variety of means – sleds pulled by horses and reindeer, tarantass pulled by horses, postal coaches, blue prints of postal wagons for Russian railways and more recently aeroplanes. These were shown as photographs, postcards and drawings.

The display also showed photographs and postcards of post offices and their interiors. Postmen were shown in a variety of uniforms or if they were in isolated areas of the countryside no uniforms.

Marcus also displayed a wide variety of ephemera which he had collected – money box, street name, Xmas tree decoration, ID cards for postal railway worker, diplomatic pouch, special airport bags and hessian postal sack and string.

The evening was a fascinating insight into the Russian postal service. Vice President Richard gave a vote of thanks and the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

Graham Harker
Honorary Assistant Secretary, Croydon Philatelic Society